IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An individual recognizing apparatus comprising:

a data acquisition unit to acquire <u>a plurality of</u> certifying data from a recognized <u>individual</u> ~~person~~;

a detection unit to detect feature points ~~of~~ <u>from</u> the <u>plurality of</u> certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit;

a change calculation unit to calculate the change ~~of the detecting~~ <u>in</u> positions of the feature points detected <u>from the plurality of certifying data</u> by the detection unit;

an aptitude judging unit to judge whether the <u>plurality of</u> certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit ~~is~~ <u>are</u> appropriate for the preparation of a certifying dictionary based on the change in the feature points calculated by the change calculation unit<u>, the plurality of certifying data being judged inappropriate if the change in feature points is above and/or below at least one threshold value</u>;

a dictionary preparing unit to prepare a certifying dictionary <u>with one or more certifying data of the plurality of certifying data that are judged to be appropriate by the aptitude judging unit</u> ~~based on the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit when the certifying data is judged appropriate~~;

a dictionary storing unit to store the certifying dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit; and

a certifying unit to certify whether a recognized ~~person~~ <u>individual</u> is a proper person using the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit and the <u>one or more certifying data in the</u> dictionary stored in the dictionary storing unit.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the change calculation unit includes a unit to calculate at least either one of the up_down and the left_right angle change ~~of~~ <u>in</u> the feature points detected by the detection unit.

3. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit is a face image of the recognized individual ~~person~~.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the detection unit uses ~~such face regions as~~ eyes, brows, nose or lip of the face image as the feature points.

5. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of the plurality of certifying data by the data acquisition unit when the plurality of certifying data ~~is~~ are judged as inappropriate by the aptitude judging unit.

6. (*Withdrawn*) An individual recognizing apparatus comprising:

a data acquisition unit to acquire certifying data from a recognized person;

a dictionary preparing unit to prepare a certifying dictionary by analyzing principal components based on the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit;

a calculation unit to calculate an eigenvalue contribution rate of the dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit;

an aptitude judging unit to judge whether the dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit is appropriate as a certifying dictionary based on the eigenvalue contribution rate calculated by the change calculation unit;

a dictionary storing unit to store the dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit when the dictionary is judged appropriate by the aptitude judging unit; and

a certifying unit to certify whether a recognized person is a proper person using the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit and the dictionary stored in the dictionary storing unit.

7. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit is a face image of the recognized person.

8. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the detection unit uses such facial regions as eyes, brows, nose or lip of the face image as the feature points.

9. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of certifying data by the data acquisition unit when the certifying data is judged as inappropriate by the aptitude judging unit.

10. (*Currently Amended*) An individual recognizing method comprising:

acquiring a plurality of certifying data from a recognized individual person;

detecting feature points from the acquired plurality of certifying data;

calculating the change of the detecting in positions of the detected feature points;

judging whether the acquired plurality of certifying data is are appropriate for the preparation of a certifying dictionary based on the change of the calculated feature points, the plurality of certifying data being inappropriate if the change in feature points is above and/or below at least one threshold value;

preparing a certifying dictionary with one or more certifying data of the plurality of certifying data that are judged to be appropriate based on the acquired certifying data when the certifying data is judged appropriate in the judging step;

storing the prepared certifying dictionary; and

certifying whether a recognized person is a proper person using the acquired certifying data and the one or more certifying data in the stored dictionary.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 10, wherein the step for calculating of the change includes the step for calculating at least either one of the up_down and the left_right angle changes of in the detected feature points detected by the detecting step.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of certifying data acquired by the data acquiring step are a face image of the recognized individual person.

13. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 12, wherein the <u>feature points detected include:</u> <s>detecting step uses such facial regions as</s> eyes, brows, nose or lip of a face image <s>as the feature points</s>.

14. (*Currently Amended*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 10, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of the <u>plurality of</u> certifying data <s>by the data acquiring step</s> when the acquired <u>plurality of certifying</u> data is judged as inappropriate <s>in the aptitude judging step</s>.

15. (*Withdrawn*) An individual recognizing method comprising:
acquiring certifying data from a recognized person;
preparing a certifying dictionary by analyzing principal components based on the acquired certifying data;
calculating an eigenvalue contribution rate of the prepared dictionary;
judging whether the prepared dictionary is appropriate as a certifying dictionary based on the calculated eigenvalue contribution rate;
storing the prepared dictionary when the prepared dictionary is judged appropriate in the judging step; and
certifying whether a recognized person is a proper person using the acquired certifying data and the stored dictionary.

16. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 15, wherein the acquired certifying data is a facial image of a recognized person.

17. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 16, wherein the detecting step uses such facial regions as eyes, brows, nose or lip of the facial image as feature points.

18. (*Withdrawn*) The individual certifying method according to claim 15, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of certifying data by the data acquiring step when the acquired data is judged as inappropriate in the aptitude judging step.